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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Miami Beach Holds Fourth Annual Family Service Day Presented by Miami Beach Medical Group

-- Volunteers and Non-Profit Agencies Connect on September 26 --

Miami Beach, FL – On Saturday, September 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the City of Miami Beach holds its fourth annual Family Service Day, celebrated in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The event engages the community in projects that enhance local parks, restore sand dunes crucial to our coastal environment, promote school attendance and environmental sustainability, transform schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments, and promote intergenerational dialogue between youth and senior citizens, all while introducing participants to community-based services and resources, many of which are free.

All volunteers are eligible to receive community service hours in exchange for their time. In order to raise awareness about the issue of hunger, promote solutions to the underlying causes and show support to our neighbors in need, volunteers are asked to bring one or more non-perishable canned goods.

Hundreds of volunteers of all ages will gather for a day of public service at and around North Shore Open Space Park, 8101 Collins Avenue. Projects include the following:

- Dune restoration and beach clean-up
- Cross-cultural activities
- Cross-generational (children & youth) art therapy activities
- Affordable Housing Capital Improvement Projects
- Removal of non-native plants
- Cleanliness and litter abatement efforts on land and throughout our waterways
- Community beautification plantings

In honor of the 25-year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Miami Beach will share valuable information on accessibility resources and City services and programs. Among other services, the City provides enhanced access to our beautiful beaches by means of our accessible beachwalk and boardwalk, as well as offering motorized and manual beach wheelchairs free of charge; access through the dunes by means of beach mats; and swim ropes at several locations in the water to assist swimmers with orientation or who need extra support.

Miami Beach's Disability Access Committee (DAC), represented by residents of the community, meets monthly to discuss accessibility issues, ideas for improvement, and

new projects to enhance the accessibility of the infrastructure and the availability of services.

A portion of the event will focus on educating the public about the importance of educational achievement and school attendance and will offer parents tips, resource lists, and referrals to community-based programs.

In addition, the event will offer information on the many services available in Miami Beach; including job training, counseling, youth development programs, truancy prevention initiatives, educational support, health care services, the IB education program, and food banks, among others. The Miami Beach Service Partnership is a collaborative engaging more than a dozen community service agencies. By raising the visibility of the partner agencies, the event will improve access to resources that increase the quality of life for all those who live, work, and play in Miami Beach.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System's Bookmobile will be on site to encourage reading on board its Mobile Unit.

Miami Beach Medical Group is the presenting sponsor of Family Service Day. Volunteers will each receive a free T-shirt courtesy of Happy Kids Daycare, a free water bottle courtesy of Coca-Cola, and a delicious lunch from food sponsor Shake Shack. Prizes and giveaways are made possible by RDP Agency. Green Apple Day of Service and Teen Job Corps are providing crucial assistance in the planning and implementation of the event. The City of Miami Beach's Parks & Recreation Department shared vital resources to assist in the event's execution.

At last year's Family Service Day, more than 200 volunteers of all ages and from all areas of Miami-Dade County pitched in to improve the Miami Beach community. Attendees enjoyed breakfast, lunch, and giveaways, as well as earning community service hours in exchange for their time.

The Miami Beach Service Partnership and Success University are funded by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Volunteers must register ahead of time by submitting the online registration form on the website. Walk-ups will not be permitted to participate.

For more information and/or to participate, visit <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/commsservices/default.aspx?id=76114> or contact Talmage Thornhill, Office of Community Services, City of Miami Beach, at 305.673.7491 or talmagethornhill@miamibeachfl.gov.

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